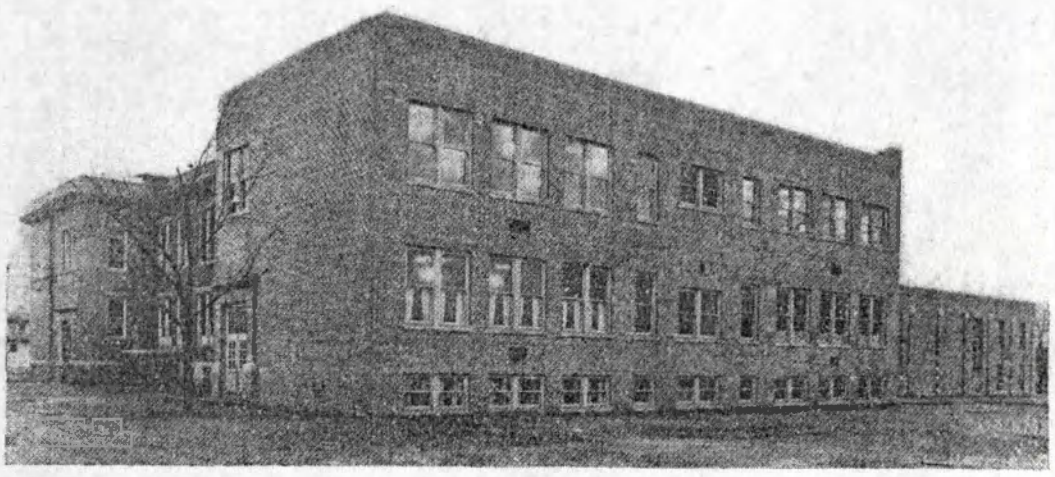
Schools (WV) Rankin

1903

RANKIN....



.... SCHOOL

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The History of Rankin School

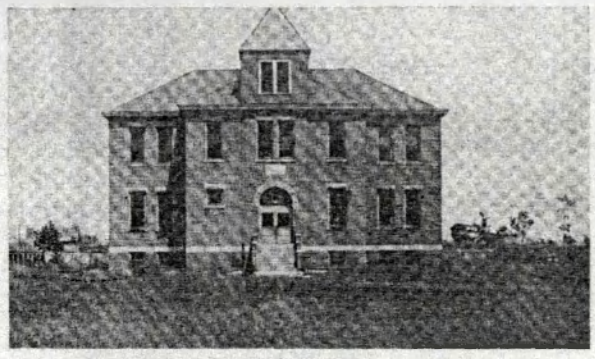
(This history was prepared by Miss Helen Rankin, who for many years was principal and teacher at Rankin School.)

The Old Fort Harrison School located at 15th and Fort was found to be inadequate to accommodate the pupils of the school. The Trustee, Mr. Thornton, decided to build two new buildings, one at 8th and Fort Harrison, and one at 19th and Prairie Avenue.

The latter, a two story four room building was erected during the summer and fall of 1903. It had a furnace but few other modern conveniences.

The school was named Rankin in honor of Mr. John Rankin who had spent a long life in encouraging movements for better education for the boys and girls of Fort Harrison and Prairie. There were three teachers the first year and four the second year.

The first important entertainment was given March, 1906, by the "Joe Davis Musical Company," and the proceeds, about fifty dollars, were used to purchase books for the library.



RANKIN SCHOOL

November 11, 1911 was a very sultry rainy day and about eleven o'clock that night a terrible storm, with wind and lightning, came up and the school house along with several other houses in the neighborhood was wrecked. No one was seriously injured and every one was very thankful that the storm had occurred while there was no school. Before morning a drop in temperature came and everything was covered with snow and ice, and this delayed investigating the full amount of damage. In less than two weeks sufficient equipment was taken to the two room concrete building near Lafayette and Carl Avenue. Here the four teachers with their pupils were soon at work. The pupils reacted to the situation in a very fine manner and finished their work successfully by the close of the year.

The remodeled building was ready for school in the fall of 1912. In 1914, the building was again remodeled, four new rooms were built and an auditorium on the second floor at the south side, and several modern conveniences were added.

About this time a Parent-Teacher Club was organized. The meetings were held in the late afternoons and much interest was manifested.

The school continued to grow and the auditorium was divided temporarily by a partition giving two new class rooms. A few years later four new class rooms were added at the north side, and an auditorium in the basement. City water was secured at this time.

The last remodeling is the present building, which was done in the spring and summer of 1935.

There have been more than forty different teachers in the Rankin School and there has been a wonderful spirit of co-operation, all working with the object of carrying out the purpose of the school. "To give the pupils the training that will promote character, citizenship, and best service toward God and Man."

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Rankin Faculty

Seated, left to right—Murrel Gossom, Grades 1B & 1A; Francis Pound, Grades 4B & 4A; Marguerite Kolber, Grade 2B; Gertrude McCormick, Grade 6B; Lucile French, Grades 5B & 5A; Alice Femyer, Grades 5A & 6A; Ruth Lee Hulett, Grade 3B; Pauline Asbury, Grades 3A & 4B; Ruth Hopkins, Grades 1A & 2A; and Mary Griffin, Grade 1B.

Standing, left to right—Victoria Cox, Girls' Health and Physical Education, Constance Payne, Home Economics and Director of Cafeteria; Mary Masselink, Mathematics and English; Oral Wilson, General Shop and Mathematics; Mary Russell, Art Supervisor and Junior High School Art; George R. Sparks, Biology and Mathematics; Julia Hall, Music Supervisor and Junior High School Music; Helen Carney, Commerce and Librarian; Eugenia Dorsey, English and Introductory Language; Clarence A. Pound, Principal; Anna Howard, Girl's Advisor and Social Studies; and Anna Sherwood, English and Social Studies.

Rankin School opened September 13, 1935, with an enrollment of three hundred and twenty-five in grades one to six and two hundred and seventy-five in grades seven to nine, being the second largest school in Vigo County. Pupils in grades seven and eight are transported from the Ft. Harrison and Maple avenue districts, whereas pupils in the ninth grade are transported from all districts of Harrison township.

Prior to the opening of school, the Elementary and Junior High School teachers met in individual and combined groups to formulate plans for an efficient and growing organization that would serve the best interests of boys and girls that would come to them for the greatest of all training, public education.

Realizing the need for continuous growth, teacher supervisory meetings were organized for both the Elementary and Junior High School teachers, these meetings to be held once each month after school hours. The Elementary group chose as their theme "Adjusting the School to the Individual Needs of the Child," with definite phases of this problem to be considered at the various meetings. The Junior High School teachers decided to study "The Home-Room and Guidance Program of The Junior High School." At this time the new plans, worked out in the meetings, are being used in the classroom and organizations of the school.

Ralph G. Miller, instrumental teacher and director of the township orchestras, spends two days each week teaching instrumental classes and directing beginning and advanced orchestras. Approximately seventy-five receive instruction in this program.

Miss Helen Gerdink, music teacher in the Elementary schools of the township, teaches piano classes to over fifty pupils in grades four to nine. These classes meet each Wednesday afternoon

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Harrison Township Trustee

JUDGE TREANOR
Chief Justice of State Supreme Court

HAROLD MOORE
County Supt. of Schools

Through the combined efforts of Harold E. Moore, Superintendent of Vigo County Schools and John T. Sankey, Township Trustee, we are able to dedicate today, this beautiful educational edifice that will stand as a true monument to educaional ideals. Mr. Moore's long experience as teacher, principal, state inspector and county superintendent enabled him to advise wisely and direct well this new structure. The high ideal of modern educational advantages for the boys and girls of Harrison Township held by Mr. Sankey, insured from the beginning of the building program the best school plant that the township could afford. The community owes much to the foresight and combined efforts of those two educational administrators.

Walter E. Treanor, Judge of the Supreme Court of Indiana, has had an active career in the fields of education and law. He started as a teacher in a township school in Pike County, Indiana, and from 1903 to 1911 was teacher of Latin and History in the Petersburg High School. In 1912 he graduated from Indiana University with an A.B. degree. He became principal of the Petersburg High School in 1912 and was made superintendent of schools in 1915. In 1917 he resigned the superintendency of the Petersburg schools and served in the World War as a 2nd Lieutenant.

After the war he enrolled in the Indiana University School of Law from which he received the degree of LL.B. in 1922 and the J.D. degree in 1923. Upon graduation he joined the faculty of the Indiana University School of Law. In 1927 he received the S.J.D. degree at Harvard Law School after a year's graduate study there and returned to the faculty of the law school at Indiana University where he was a professor of law at the time of his election in 1930 to the Indiana Supreme Court. While professor of law he served as editor of the Indiana Law Journal, official publication of the Indiana State Bar Association.

His present term as Judge of the Indiana Supreme Court from the 1st Judicial District of Indiana began in January, 1931. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Order of the Coif and the American, Indiana State and Monroe County Bar Associations.

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The Parent-Teacher Association

The Parent-Teacher Association has always worked for the betterment of the school's standards and the training of the boys and girls in this community. This year's officers are composed of Harry Blacksom, President, Douglas Kelshaw, Vice President, James Robb, Treasurer, and Lucille French, Secretary.

Hospitality Committee—Allen D. Rowland, Charles Purcell, Clarence Buzan
Publicity Committee—C. A. Pound, Harry Blacksom
Finance Committee—Walter Bielfield, James Robb, Walter Chapman

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The Dedication

Thursday, December 5th, 1935.

Thursday, December 5th, had been set aside as Dedication Day for our new school unit. During the entire day, parents were invited to visit the various class, to attend the musical program at the general assembly at 12:50, and the formal tea given by the Home Economics Department under the direction of Miss Constonce Payne at 2:30 to 3:25. The Senior Orchestra under the direction of Ralph Miller furnished the music during the reception. At 7:00 the building was thrown open to all the patrons and friends of the school to inspect the various rooms and laboratories.

PROGRAM—7:30 P. M.

Concert—Harrison Twp. Junior High School Orchestra, Directed by Ralph Miller

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"May Dance"
"Scented Roses"
"Marcheta"
"Gavotte Souvenir"—Herzberg
"Melody in F"—Rubenstein

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Program Continued

Clarence A. Pound, Presiding.

Invocation—Rev. Joseph L. Fisher

Flag Presentation—Rankin Boy Scout Troop, Directed by Walter Chapman

Special Music

Presentation of New Building to Community—John T. Sankey, Trustee

Acceptance of New Building for Community—Harry Blocksom, President of Rankin Parent-Teacher Association

Introduction of Speaker—Harold E. Moore, County Superintendent of Schools

Address—"Schools in a Democracy," by Judge Treanor, Chief Justice of State Supreme Court

Music—Junior High School Orchestra

Benediction—Rev. Joseph L. Fisher

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